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less finished ones. These seem to give instruction as to the progress in the form of implements as well as improvement in the art of fabrication. It appears to me, therefore, most desirable that the society should have a good record of the forms and types, if they are not successful enough to have the collection constantly accessible to their members. It struck me that the chief value of the collection consisted in the manifestation of the progress in the art of construction of fine tools and implements out of stubborn and intractable materials. Some of the Scandinavian types are profusely represented, but there are some groups, scanty in numbers, and less elaborated in their construction, which are exceedingly interesting memorials of the period.

I am, very truly yours,

Dr. Hunt.

JAMES WYATT.

DECEMBER 31ST, 1867.

DR. CHARNOCK, V.P., IN THE CHAIR.

THE minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The election of the following gentlemen, as Fellows, was announced:

Lieutenant C. F. Ellis, Royal Artillery, The Citadel, Plymouth; George Allin, Esq., 14, High Street, St. Albans; James Butler, Esq., 35, Lansdowne Road, Notting Hill; John Miller, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Madras; William Mason Scharlieb, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Madras; Dr. Angelo Manzoni of Lugo (Ravenna), Italy, was elected Local Secretary for Lugo.

The following presents were announced as received:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

From the AUTHOR—The Dialect of Banffshire, by the Rev. Walter Gregor, F.A.S.L.

From the AUTHOR—The Franklin Expedition, by R. King, Esq., M.D., F.A.S.L.

From the SOCIETY—Proceedings of the Royal Society, No. 96, Nov. 1867.

From the COMMITTEE—Catalogue of the Manchester Free Reference Library. Index Catalogue of the Hulme Lending Branch.

The DIRECTOR announced that Charles Harding and Henry Brookes, Esqrs., had been appointed Auditors for 1867.

The DIRECTOR stated that this was a meeting for the reception of Reports from Local Secretaries, and other Fellows of the Society.

The following letter was then read:—

Moscow, 4/16 December, 1867.

SIR,—I greatly regret that an excursion into Finland and Sweden prevented my receiving your letters, and replying to them at the time. I now hasten to send you the Annual Report of our Society; containing also (from pp. 27-36) that of the Anthropological Section,

and to inform you at the same time, that the Imperial Society of "Des Amis de la Nature" has had the satisfaction, at its meeting the 15/27 October, of unanimously electing you a Foreign Associate Member. In rendering this just acknowledgment to your learned labours, and to the indefatigable care you have devoted to the progress and completion of Anthropological science, the Society hopes by this election to consolidate more and more the amicable relations already so firmly established between the Anthropological institutions of London and of Moscow. As to the diploma and official communications, they will be sent to you immediately by the Secretary of the Society, Mr. Alexis Wladirmirsky.

My object in Finland was to gather materials for my study on the Finn race; and I was very agreeably surprised to find, at the University of Helsingfors, an excellent craniological collection, due to the care of Professor Bonsdorff. Thanks to the extreme kindness of that *savant*, I was enabled to render myself familiar with every part of the collection, and to take geometrical outlines of nearly a hundred Finn crania. I have ventured to enrol the name of Prof. Bonsdorff upon the list of candidates fully qualified to seat themselves amongst the members of the Anthropological Society of London.

Once at Helsingfors, I could not refrain from the pleasure of proceeding to Stockholm, where, it may be said, that modern craniology originated. I was not disappointed: the famous collection of Retzius, to the present time one of the most remarkable for its wealth, was immediately and very kindly thrown open to me by Professor von Düben, who is the inspector of it. He himself is at the present time engaged chiefly in measuring and sketching, proposing to publish, in the course of this winter, the first part of an exact and detailed description of the collection of Retzius. Prof. von Düben is already a member of the Paris Anthropological Society, and I may permit myself to recommend him to your special attention for nomination as a Fellow of the Anthropological Society of London.

The younger Retzius has been occupied all the summer in the neighbourhood of Copenhagen, which deprived me of the advantage of making his personal acquaintance. Among the other institutions of Stockholm, the new National Museum most fixed my attention, by its wealth in materials for the study of the pre-historic epochs of northern Europe; it is enough to say, that the various utensils and stone instruments amount to the astonishing number of sixteen thousand. It was there that I was able to familiarise myself with the section of antiquities, thanks to M. Emile Hildebrandt, son of the famous *savant* of that name, at present Antiquary to the Kingdom of Sweden.

To return to myself.—I am at present hastening to complete my memoir on the Finn crania, having the intention of going to Germany in the coming January. In March, I hope to see my honourable friends in London. Our craniological collection does not cease to receive new accessions, even after the closing of the Ethnographical Exposition: I will content myself with naming a series of crania recently received from Siberia. In this respect the Exposition has

been of immense advantage to us : it has shown the public what was required to complete our collections ; and has produced for us a series of new anthropological facts, and new fellow-labourers. The Ethnographical Collections, which have figured at the Exposition, are already placed in the salons of the public museum ; and in January their definitive arrangement is to take place, and the museum opened to visitors.

One result which I regret in my absence in Finland, is that I missed having the pleasure of seeing the Vice-President of your Society, Dr. Charnock, at Moscow, and personally expressing my sincere esteem to him.

I hope that our recent publications, as well as the catalogues of the Exposition, have reached you, having been sent in the spring.

I beg to present you the photographic *carte* of our President, the Emeritus Professor of Geology at the University of Moscow, M. Gregoire Stourofxy. He is a personage worthy of the highest esteem, entirely devoted to geological researches, and for that purpose travelling over every part of Russia ; he is, indeed, the third person whom I deem it my duty to designate as a *savant*, well worthy of being associated with the labours of your honourable society.

One of my intimate friends, M. Basile Ochanine, being on the point of going abroad to learn the best mode of establishing a maritime aquarium at Moscow, I trust you and your learned friends will not refuse your counsel, and I charge him with the expression of the profound devotion with which I remain,

Sir, your very obedient servant,

ALEXIS FEDTSCHENKO.

The DIRECTOR remarked that this was a very important communication, affording a variety of facts respecting the progress of Anthropology in Moscow, and the researches of Prof. Fedtschenko in the museums of Scandinavia. He would call upon Mr. Higgins, who had inspected those museums on behalf of the society, to confirm the statement as to the very large number of implements, and whether their character for genuineness was established. Prof. Von Düben had been elected by the Council in advance of the recommendation. There were on the table a series of elaborate works presented by the Moscow Society, of which, perhaps, the Chairman, as a student of Russian literature, might give the society an epitome.

The CHAIRMAN said he was not in a position to do so, as he had not had an opportunity of examining the works.

Mr. HIGGINS remarked, that it was a matter of regret that the work was not published in a language more familiar to European students in general ; judging by the illustrations, the researches seemed to be of great value. The comparative anthropology of the Finn race had been denominated by Prof. Retzius the most complicated problem of European ethnography. There were twenty-four Finn skulls at Stockholm, and others, he did not precisely remember the number, at Helsingfors. Prof. Bonsdorff furnished Retzius with some of these skulls. As to the flint implements in the National Museum at Stockholm, from a general impression he should think there were at least

16,000, and there was no reason to suspect their authenticity. The Finns were especially interesting, from their presumed connexion with the brachycephalic populations of Europe; the historical evidence, though defective, seemed to show that they extended much further than at present.

The following letter was read from Mr. Murray, of Sydney:—

Sydney, New South Wales, April 20, 1867.

SIR,—Observing a notice of some “Ancient British Sculptured Rocks” in the third volume of the *Anthropological Review*, 1865, p. 293, it has occurred to me that there is some similarity between the figures given therein, and those which appear on an “aboriginal tomb tablet” which has been sent from this colony to the Paris Exhibition. I have had no opportunity of comparing them, as the volume I refer to has only just reached me, and I speak merely from recollection of the carvings on the tablet; but it occurs to me that the matter may not be unworthy of attention on the part of the Anthropological Society, and I trust you will, in consequence, pardon me for intruding upon you. The tablet is marked as No. 428 in the Catalogue of our exhibits, a copy of which I send you. The sculptures, I observe, are supposed to be of pre-historic antiquity, and of sepulchral character; and if the similarity exists, it will be interesting to contemplate in it another instance of man’s disposition, all over the world, to act under like circumstances in a like manner. It is possible that the social condition of the sculptors of those remote ages may not have been much in advance of that of the Australian aborigines of the present day. It has been a practice among the latter to place inscriptions, or rather rude marks, on trees in memory of the dead who were buried near: I have known it in many cases.

I also observed in a former volume of the same *Review*, that a question has been raised in your society as to the fecundity of Australian half-castes. Count Strzelecki, author of *A Physical Description of New South Wales*, was the first to raise a doubt upon this subject. But my experience, extending over very many years, leads me to believe that these people would, under equally favourable circumstances, be as prolific as any others. Count Strzelecki says, that the Australian aboriginal female will not bear a child to an aboriginal black man after having had one by a white man. I have, however, known nothing, in a long course of observation of the native races, to warrant this opinion; on the contrary, I have seen several black children who were born after their mothers had had children by white men. Nor does the race deteriorate by the cross. Among the half-castes may be seen as fine models of the human form as any that are commonly to be met with in the colony. That they are not more numerous is not the result of any inherent infirmity in themselves; it proceeds from other causes incident to their peculiar condition in life. The old blacks in the southern districts of New South Wales, and I believe throughout the colony,—although for this I cannot vouch from my own knowledge,—used, up to a certain period, systematically to destroy all the half-caste boys as they approached the